(*b*) (i) 4 per cent.

(ii) 6¼ per cent.

(iii) The member is referred to the *Press Communiqué* published on page 638 of the Government Gazette dated the 12th July, 1921.

(*c*) The answer is in the negative.

Teaching of Christian Scriptures in Recognised Educational Institutions.

4. MR. K. C. RAJA RAJA VARMA: (*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the teaching of Christian scriptures to non-Christian minor students in schools managed by Christian Missions and Churches ?

(*b*) Have complaints from the parents or guardians of such students been received by the Government or the educational authorities regarding the teaching of the Christian religion against their will?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to issue orders that non-Christian students should not be taught the Christian religion or admitted in such religious classes without the written consent of their guardians or parents?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) Government are aware that, in some schools managed by Christian Missions or Churches, some non-Christian pupils attend Bible classes.

(*b*) & (*c*) No specific complaints of the kind referred to by the member have been recently received and there is no need for any general order in the matter.

Increase of Drunkenness.

5. MR. K. C. RAJA RAJA VARMA: (*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the increase in the consumption of liquor and other intoxicants in the State during the past twelve years ?

(*b*) Have the Government taken any steps to check the growing evil of drunkenness in the country?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) Accurate figures of consumption are available from the year 1088 only and they are furnished in the statement* appended. These figures will show that there has been no appreciable increase, and that, on the contrary, the consumption in 1097 was less under all intoxicants than in 1088 in spite of the large increase of population revealed by the recent Census.

(*b*) The policy of the Government has always been to check the evil of drunkenness, by making drinking increasingly difficult, expensive and unattractive. In view to this object, they have reduced the number of shops, increased tree-tax and the duty and price of arrack and toddy, and reduced the issue strength of arrack.

* *Vide* Appendix I page 11.

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MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: It was stated by the Government that they would consider the question, which is different from a promise.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to say whether the Director of Public Instruction or a Professor of the College or anybody else has brought this fact to the notice of Government?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: There has been no correspondence since then on this subject, as far as I remember.

Admission into the Arts College.

24. MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state whether any and what steps have been taken to minimise the difficulties of admission into His Highness the Maha Raja's College, Trivandrum, in pursuance of the promise made by the Dewan to the deputation that waited upon him some months back?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: The member is referred to the answer to Question No. 2 (*b*).

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Do the Government propose to do anything with regard to this question for the next academic year?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: The Government now propose to appoint a committee as stated in answer to Question No. 2 (*b*)

APPENDIX I.

[*Vide* **Answer to Question No. 5**]

Statement showing the consumption of arrack, foreign liquor, opium and ganja during the last 10 years (1088-97)

Year.	Arrack.	Opium.	Ganja.	Foreign liquor.
	Proof gallons.	Seers.	Seers.	Gallons.
1088	1,16,625	5,258	3,357	34,681
1089	1,39,080	5,427	5,544	36,621
1090	1,13,723	5,120	4,361	29,217
1091	97,041	4,907	4,585	25,604
1092	1,05,792	5,031	4,892	19,755
1093	95,122	5,401	5,452	12,266
1094	1,30,238	5,240	4,933	10,727
1095	1,60,631	5,418	5,462	19,042
1096	1,53,159	5,285	4,403	22,958
1097	1,14,489	5,036	2,643	21,874

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